

TO THE HONOURABLE

the COMMONS Assembled in PARLIAMENT.

The humble Petition of divers Citizens of London Westminster and the Burrough of Southwarke.

SHEWETH,

THat having with extream griefe observed, how ineffectuall the manifold endeavours of the Army and other well affected People have been, in their addressees to this Honourable house, for expelling of those that sate in the late destructive pretended Parliament, without which we esteeme it in vaine to hope for justice or peace to this distracted Nation: we cannot but impute the cause thereof, as also of the dissatisfactory answers to some late Petitions unto the prevailing power and influence of the persons to be removed; It being not to be expected, whilst they are continued Judges in their owne cases, that they will ever eject themselves.

But that they are permitted so to be, and to vote in all publicke affaires, we conceive is hard measure, and full of danger to the Common-wealth, especially in this juncture of time when a personal Treaty is moved for by the King: nothing being more unreasonable, or unsafe then that those who so lately usurped a Parliamentary authority, & voted his coming to *London* upon his owne termes, and indeavoured to raise a new Warre should now be trusted, to debate and vote in an affaire wherein the peace and freedome of this whole Nation is so highly concerned.

We professe, we apprehend the injustice to be so palpable, and the danger so inevitable, that it is intollerably irksome to our spirits, For if they be not speedily removed, we can hope for no better, after all our hopes upon subduing the common enemy, then in this treaty, to be concluded slaves by a formall agreement, and act of Parliament.

Yet the safety of the people being the supream Law, wee cannot but hope, that in this so dangerous a case, the Army (according to their ingagements, Declarations and protestations) will assist you and see the Liberties of the people in Parliament cleared and secured from the malice and treachery of those usurpers, and that those worthy Officers and Commanders of the Army, that are members of this Honourable house, will be exemplary unto others in imploying their utmost indeavours to free this Honorable house from so intollerable a burthen, and neither offer any proposalls or admit of any treaty until those usurpers shall be removed, against whose sitting in the house they have so resolutely protested.

And we have exceedingly wondred whence it is, that those whose removal hath been so many times, and ways importuned, should have encouragement to continue in the House, though to the palpable aggravation of their offences, and to the distemperring, and distracting all the affairs of the Common-wealth: the validity of all thats Voted, and Ordered, being very questionable, whilst those are permitted to Vote in the House, that virtually, and in effect remain under a charge of the highest nature.

And as we most earnestly desire the removal of those, so in like manner for the more safe, just, and effectual managing of the publick affairs, we intreat, that you will be pleased forthwith to order upon a severe penalty, the return and speedy coming to the House, of all absent Members, against whom there is no just exception, which we conceive is due of right to the Common-wealth, and that you will be so far careful of the good of the Nation, as not to admit of any Treaty, or debate about Proposals, nor to proceed in any other thing, though never so much pressed thereunto, until both these are thoroughly, and effectually done, it being as unreasonable as dangerous, that the people should be concluded, either by the Vote of so many corrupted Members, or in the absence of so many whom they have chosen.

These being effected, we have many things to propose to this honourable house, whose just authority, we shall ever endeavour with all our might to preferue,

And ever pray, &c.